

#E1-651
RR

February 25, 2004

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20423-0001

received
2/26/04

Re: STB Finance Docket 34284, Southwest Gulf Railroad Company

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

I am responding to the request for comments on the "formal scoping" process for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above referenced project. It is my opinion that the proposed quarry construction and operation proposed by Vulcan Construction materials, LP and the proposed construction and operation of a railroad by Southwest Gulf Railroad Company ((SGR) are linked by ownership and operation and should be studied and assessed by your agency as a joint project.

The proposed railroad route will dissect my property and will quite literally cut it in half. This will directly impact my capability of continuing my ranching operations and will result in substantial financial losses for myself and my family. The division of my hay fields will prevent me from continuing to bail my grasses. The railroad tracks will cut my cattle pastures down the middle with water holes on one side and feed on the other.

The vibration of the trains will most assuredly affect the water quality in my Edwards Well and will inevitably speed up the decline of the National Historic Landmark home on my property. The Schuele-Saathoff home constructed in 1850 is also a Texas State Historical Landmark but because it is located on private property there are not public fund available to maintain it. I have continually repaired the walls, plaster and windows because the home is slowly deteriorating. In addition, the vibrations, and the tracks will destroy a very old rock wall that runs the length of my property. The proposed route cuts through the wall at a 90-degree angle, and that portion will no longer exists, and the nearness of the vibrations will damage any remaining wall.

Finally, the only access to my property is through the Quihi Creek, just a short distance from where the proposed railroad will also cross the Quihi Creek. There are usually two or three times each year when the Quihi Creek is flooded and I am unable to enter or leave my property. Any change, alteration or construction within the Quihi Creek will have a direct affect on my life.

Sincerely,


Glenn K. Lindsey

cc:

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